

Attorney Docket 58084US004
U.S.S.N. 10/530,468

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action dated August 3, 2006, claims 28 and 29 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Further in the final Office Action, claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The Office Action indicates that the limitation "tape holding member," found in line 12 of claim 1, lacks antecedent basis. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The limitation "tape holding member structure" is not preceded by "the" or "said." Further, such structure may comprise more than one element, see amended claim 1 above. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

Also in the final Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-171570 A; claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of the '570 document; and claims 22-27 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over the '570 document and JP 2001-097636.

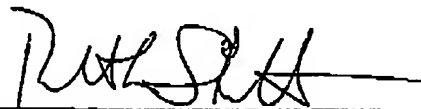
A telephone interview was conducted between Examiners Fiorilla and Chan and Applicant's representative Robert L. Showalter on October 16, 2006. During the interview, Mr. Showalter proposed canceling claim 21 and adding its limitations to claim 1. The Examiners concluded that claim 1, amended to recite the limitations of claim 21, would define over the '570 document. Hence, claim 21 was improperly rejected. However, the Examiners further stated that claim 1, if amended in this manner, may be rejected in view of other prior art. A further possible amendment to claim 1 was also discussed. In particular, it was proposed that claim 1 be amended to recite the limitations of claim 21 and further be amended to recite that the first and second holding members are fixed relative to the tape application head. During a subsequent call, Examiner Chan noted that if claim 1 is amended to recite the limitations of claim 21 and is further amended to recite that the first and second holding members are fixed relative to the tape application head, that claim may not be patentable in view of JP 2000-159426.

With this paper, claim 21 has been canceled and its limitations have been added to claim 1. It is submitted that amended claim 1 defines patentable invention over the '570 document, as discussed during the interview. Claims 6 and 23-25 have been amended in view of the amendment to claim 1. As these amendments do not raise any new issues, it is respectfully requested that this paper be entered.

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In view of the above amendments, applicant submits that claims 1-20 and 22-29 define patentably over the applied prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that the above referenced rejections should be withdrawn and this case allowed. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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